

Interested FIS partners,

The Fisheries Information System (FIS) Project has continued making progress during FY04. Now it is time for the FIS national team to review the status of the program and to follow up projects that will produce measurable progress towards satisfying the goals of the national FIS. The Office of Science and Technology is therefore planning to hold the second national meeting and it is scheduled for the week of August 16, 2004. It will be held in Seattle, Washington.

In January 2004, Dr. Mike Sissenwine asked management and everyone to continue to support the FIS project and assign the best expertise to assist the FIS development process. The FIS team has been working very hard to make this happen. Within the last year we've had a very successful national meeting, formed five Professional Specialty Groups (PSGs), and funded dozens of essential projects. With participation from NOAA Fisheries offices, FINs, and states from across the country, we are truly living up to our motto: "National Vision. Joint Decisions." Currently, the team is working on the completion of the draft project scope and planning document for the FIS project.

As many of you may understand, it is very important to have the FIS team meet face to face to discuss important events and what is happening. The meeting will provide opportunities for business and technical experts to focus, brainstorm problem resolutions, and resolve real issues in one single room. To be successful, FIS continuously needs input and active participation from all region and center offices, regional state/federal fisheries information networks (ACCSP, GulfFIN, PacFIN, Pacific RecFIN, AkFIN, and WPacFIN) that have responsibility for management of core fishery databases consistent with Dr. Hogarth's charge in February in 2003. The goal of the meeting is to enable staff from a variety of offices to share information on system capabilities and limitations, to review progress we have made and lessons learned, and to continue the process of identifying how staff can best work together to make an integrated FIS system a reality. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for S&T and region and center staff to review the draft system scope document, work on the completion of the detailed project plans for the national FIS, and to review the proposals for the FY05. For those offices that did not receive travel funds as part of their projects, S&T will attempt to cover travel to this meeting. This will be an opportunity for region and center staff to let us know what your needs are, and what FIS resources may continue to support necessary modifications to your local systems.

We will send out the meeting agenda by the end of June. Please let us know how many people are interested and can likely attend so that we can start logistics planning. Also please identify what items need to be discussed at the meeting so we can add them to the agenda. Please block out the week of August 16, and we look forward to a successful and well-attended meeting. The meeting duration will be from 2:00 p.m. PDT on August 16 to 4:30 p.m. PDT on August 19, 2004.

For current FIS activities, please visit: <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/fis>

Thank you,

Tina Chang